

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02691 152217Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /067 W

-----152227Z 098166 /73

O R 152130Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1513

INFO USUN NEW YORK 594

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: AMBASSADORIAL STATEMENT ON CANAL ZONE GATE INCIDENT

REFS: A. PANAMA 2599; B. PANAMA 2608

1. IN VIEW OF CONTINUATION UNTIL APRIL 28 OF COURT CASE OF IGNACIO JAVIER IRIBERRI, PANAMANIAN CITIZEN CHARGED WITH DISTURBING THE PEACE AT ENTRANCE OF FORT CLAYTON, AMBASSADOR HAS ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

2. BEGIN TEXT: ON APRIL 12, I WAS ASKED BY FOREIGN MINISTER NICOLAS GONZALEZ-REVILLA TO INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD AT THE ENTRANCE TO FORT CLAYTON ON SATURDAY APRIL 9. THE INCIDENT CONCERNED THE REFUSAL BY U.S. MILITARY POLICEMEN TO ALLOW ENTRANCE INTO THE FORT CLAYTON MILITARY BASE AREA BY A PANAMANIAN CITIZEN, IGNACIO JAVIER IRIBERRI, AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY. THE INCIDENT RESULTED IN CHARGES OF DISTURBING THE PEACE BEING REGISTERED AGAINST MR. IRIBERRI.

3. BECAUSE THIS MATTER IS PENDING BEFORE THE COURTS, I HAVE NOT WISHED, NOR DO I WISH NOW, TO GET INTO A DETAILED RECOUNTING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02691 152217Z

OF THE EVENTS OF THIS INCIDENT ON A MINUTE-BY-MINUTE BASIS. THAT RECOUNTING SHOULD PROPERLY BE LEFT TO THE JUDICIAL HEARING WHICH I UNDERSTAND IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 28. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND OCCASIONALLY DISTORTED MANNER IN WHICH THIS AFFAIR HAS BEEN DEALT WITH IN SOME CIRCLES, I CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT OUR PANAMANIAN FRIENDS BE AWARE OF CERTAIN FACTS.

4. FIRST, AS WE ALL KNOW, THOUSANDS OF PANAMANIAN CITIZENS FREELY ENTER INTO AND DEPART FROM THE CANAL ZONE EVERY WEEK WITHOUT INCIDENT. ON THE DAY IN QUESTION, I.E., APRIL 9, MORE THAN 180 PANAMANIAN ENTERED THE FORT CLAYTON AREA ALONG THE SAME ROAD AND THROUGH THE SAME GUARD POST AS THAT INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT WITH NO TROUBLE WHATSOEVER.

5. AS WE ALL KNOWN TOO, IT IS STANDARD PROCEDURE IN MILITARY BASE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR PERSONS DESIRING ADMITTANCE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND PROVIDE, IF ASKED, THEIR DESTINATION AND THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT. THE REPORTS OF THE INCIDENT IN QUESTION MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MR. IRIBERRI REFUSED TO PROVIDE THE MILITARY POLICE WITH ANY IDENTIFICATION, THOUGH HE IS REQUIRED BY PANAMANIAN LAW TO CARRY SUCH IDENTIFICATION. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY ADDRESS OF LOCALITY TO WHICH HE SOUGHT ACCESS. THE DETAILS OF ENSUING EVENTS SHOULD PROPERLY COME FROM THOSE WHO WITNESSED THOSE EVENTS. I ASSUME THIS WILL BE DONE IN FUTURE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

6. IT IS MY SINCERE WISH THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND BE AVOIDED. THE FACT THAT SO MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ENTER AND DEPART FROM THE AREAS IN QUESTION WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES TELLS ME THAT THESE AFFAIRS ARE COMPLETELY AVOIDABLE IF WE ALL ABIDE BY EXISTING REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

7. FINALLY, LET ME SAY THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES, PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES, HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO CONDUCT. WE ARE WELL ALONG THE WAY TO NEW ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL GREATLY BENEFIT OUR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 02691 152217Z

RELATIONS. I HOPE THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS CAN BE AVOIDED, BUT WE ARE, AFTER ALL, DEALING WITH FALLIBLE HUMAN BEINGS. THERE MAY BE OCCASIONAL LAPSES. LET US NOT PERMIT SUCH LAPSES TO BE CONVERTED INTO MATTERS OF EMOTIONAL CONFRONTATION THAT CAN ONLY OBSCURE THE LARGER AND VASTLY MORE IMPORTANT COMMON INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLES. END TEXT.

JORDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, ARRESTS, INVESTIGATIONS, TRIALS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA02691
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0201
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770452/aaaabtip.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1e598a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 2599, 77 PANAMA 2608
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2793991
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADORIAL STATEMENT ON CANAL ZONE GATE INCIDENT
TAGS: PINT, MARR, PN, PQ, US, (IRIBERRI, IGNACIO JAVIER), (JORDEN, WILLIAM J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1e598a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009